

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for radio access bearer (RAB) negotiation or renegotiation/reconfiguration comprising the steps of:

5 determining a need to modify at least one RAB; and
 sending a RAB Modify Request message to a core network, the message specifying an identification of the at least one RAB to be modified and specifying a manner in which the at least one RAB needs to be modified.

10 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

 receiving a response message from the CN indicating whether the at least one RAB can be modified in the specified manner; and
 if the modification is acceptable, performing the modification.

5 3. In a Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS) comprising a Radio Network Controller (RNC), a method of performing Radio Access bearer (RAB) negotiation or renegotiation/reconfiguration comprising the steps of:

 at the RNC, determining that a modification of at least one RAB needs to be made;

20 sending a RAB Modify Request Message to a core network, the RAB Modify Request Message specifying the modification that needs to be made; and
 receiving a RAB Assignment Request Message from the core network.

25 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the RAB Modify Request Message comprises a RABs To Be Modified field which is used to identify at least one RAB parameter that needs to be modified.

30 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the RABs To Be Modified field further identifies a RAB ID of the RAB for which the at least one RAB parameter will be modified.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein the RAB Assignment Request Message specifies whether the modification is acceptable to the CN.

7. In a communication system comprising a Radio Network Controller (RNC), a method of performing Radio Access bearer (RAB) configuration comprising the steps of:

receiving a RAB Assignment Request Message containing a requested parameter value for each of a plurality of RAB parameters for a particular RAB, wherein for each of the plurality of RAB parameters, a range or set of acceptable values is provided;

at the RNC, determining whether each of the requested parameter values can be accommodated; and

if the RNC cannot accommodate one of the requested parameter values for one of the plurality of RAB parameters, sending a RAB Assignment Response Message to the CN specifying a parameter value in the range of acceptable values for the one of the plurality of RAB parameters.